

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action dated July 11, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 9 and 14 are independent claims.

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,734,636 to Sanford ("Sanford") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0002703 to Koyama ("Koyama 703"). Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sanford in view of Koyama 703 in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0043168 to Koyama ("Koyama"). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sanford in view of Koyama 703 in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0105040 to Yamazaki ("Yamazaki"). Claims 19-13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sanford in view of Koyama 703 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,809,706 to Shimoda ("Shimoda"). Claim 14 is rejected

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sanford in view of Koyama 703 in further view of Yamazaki. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-14 are allowable over Sanford alone and in view of any of Koyama in view of Koyama 703 alone and in view of any combination of Koyama, Yamazaki and Shimoda for at least the following reasons.

It is undisputed that "Sanford fails to disclose a transistor directly connected to the anode of the display element." (See, Final Office Action, page 3.) It must be pointed out that the claims do not merely recite "an amorphous silicon or microcrystalline silicon second drive NMOS transistor directly connected to the anode of the display element" as seems to be alleged by the Final Office Action. Claim 1 for example in pertinent part recites (emphasis added) "an amorphous silicon or microcrystalline silicon second drive NMOS transistor directly connected to the anode of the display element for supplying a holding voltage to the anode of the display element."

The Office Action states "that it was well known in the art to provide a transistor directly connected to the anode of the display element" and suggests that this is shown by Koyama 703. While the Applicants do not dispute that Koyama 703 shows a transistor 1409

connected directly to an anode of the display element 1405, it is strongly disputed that this is sufficient for rendering the claims as presented, as obvious over Sanford in view of Koyama 703. In fact, if Koyama 703 were utilized to modify Sanford as the Final Office Action stipulates is suggested, it is respectfully submitted that this modification would render the circuit of Sanford inoperable. As taught in Sanford, it is the gate to source capacitance of Q302 (the second transistor in terms of the claim recitations) that is shown connected to the capacitor Cs310. Sanford teaches that it is this connection of Q302 to capacitor Cs310 (and not directly to the display element), which nulls out the gate to drain capacitance and thereby the voltage increase due to capacitive coupling from Q301 (see, FIG. 3 and the accompanying description contained in Col. 6, lines 50-59). If Q302 were connected directly to the anode of the display element as suggested in the Final Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that Q302 would not be enabled to null out the voltage increase from Q301 and accordingly, Q302 would not operate as it is intended by Sanford.

It is respectfully submitted that it is well settled that when a modification renders a device inoperative for its intended purpose, this modification is non-obvious. "If when combined, the

references 'would produce a seemingly inoperative device,' then they teach away from their combination." (In re Sponnoble, 405 F.2d 578, 587, 160 USPQ 237, 244 (CCPA 1969). Further, there is no suggestion to modify a prior art reference where the modification would render the device inoperative for its intended purpose. (In re Gordon, 733 F.2d 900 (Fed. Cir. 1984)). Since shifting the transistor Q302 to be directly coupled to the anode of the display element as suggested in the Final Office Action would render the transistor Q302 inoperative for counteracting the voltage increase from Q301, this suggestion is non-obvious and in fact it is well settled that this type of a modification, namely one that renders Q302 inoperative for its intended purpose, is taught away from by Sanford.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the device of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Sanford in view of Koyama 703. For example, Sanford in view of Koyama 703 does not disclose or suggest, a device that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "an electroluminescent display element; an amorphous silicon or microcrystalline silicon first drive NMOS transistor connected between the anode of the display element and a power supply line; a

storage capacitor between the anode of the display element and the gate of the first drive transistor; and an amorphous silicon or microcrystalline silicon second drive NMOS transistor directly connected to the anode of the display element for supplying a holding voltage to the anode of the display element" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in each of claims 9 and 14. Koyama, Yamazaki and Shimoda are introduced for allegedly showing other elements of the claims and as such, do nothing to cure the deficiencies in Sanford in view of Koyama 703.

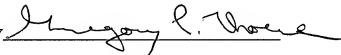
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9 and 14 are patentable over Sanford in view of Koyama 703 alone and in view of any of Koyama, Yamazaki and Shimoda and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-16 respectively depend from one of claims 1 and 9 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of

argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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September 11, 2008

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